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IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED OFFICE (DO/US)

In re: Richard Michael Taylor
International Appl. No.: PCT/GB99/03879
International Filing Date: November 19, 1999
For: AUDIO PLAYER SYSTEM

Attn: DO/US

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MDJ
4.4.03

Box PCT
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

May 17, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the claims (claims 1-40 as received on January 26, 2001 with letter of January 23, 2001 and attached to the Examination Report in the above-identified international application), as follows:

4. (Amended) An audio player system according to claim 1, wherein the playback means of the player device (2) is formed and arranged for playback of audio data stored in the solid state memory means (10) both while the device (2) is not interfaced with the base unit (1) and while the device (2) is interfaced with the base unit (1).

6. (Amended) An audio player system according to claim 1, wherein the audio data extraction means (20) of the base unit is selected from a CD drive, a CD-ROM drive and a DVD-ROM drive.

7. (Amended) An audio player system according to claim 1, wherein the non-volatile memory means (22) comprises at least one hard disk.

8. (Amended) An audio player system according to claim 1, wherein the copying and data transfer means comprises processor means for carrying out and controlling the copying of audio data from the memory means (22) of the base unit, and transferring the copied data to the output interface means (3).